

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01767 080903Z

22-11

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /038 W

----- 021255

R 080820Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6320

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1767

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR PFOR CH TW US

SUBJECT: "REFERENCE NEWS" HIGHLIGHTS FOREIGN PRESS STORIES ON TAIWAN

1. BEGIN INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. THE AUGUST 29 AND SEPTEMBER 4 ISSUES OF THE PRC RESTRICTED-CIRCULATION DAILY TSAN-KAO HSIAO-HSI (REFERENCE NEWS) DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO TAIWAN. EXCERPTS FROM FOREIGN PRESS--INCLUDING TAIWAN'S CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY--ARTICLES INCLUDE THREE PIECES ON TAIWAN'S ALLEGED SECRET REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL, TWO ITEMS RELATING ROC ARGUMENTS AGAINST US-PRC NORMALIZATION, AND ONE COLUMN CONCERNING THE RUPTURE OF TAIWAN'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. REPROCESSING. DRAWING FROM AN 8/29 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE, AN 8/30 USIA PRESS RELEASE, AND AN 8/30 REUTERS DISPATCH FROM TAIPEI, THE REFERENCE NEWS OF SEPTEMBER 4 MAKES ITS READERS AWARE THAT:

--U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ALLEGEDLY HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT TAIWAN IS ENGAGED IN SECRET REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL.
--STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FUNSETH DECLARED THAT THE USG HAD "CLEARLY AND PERSUASIVELY" CONVEYED TO TAIPEI ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01767 080903Z

--ROC SPOKESMEN IN WASHINGTON AND TAIPEI DENIED THAT TAIWAN

WAS REPROCESSING NUCLEAR FUEL OR PLANNING TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

--IF TAIWAN WERE IN FACT DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HOWEVER, THE "FORD ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE IN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION--ESPECIALLY DURING AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN." REPUBLICAN PARTY CONSERVATIVES MIGHT OPPOSE ADMINISTRATION REFUSAL TO LICENSE EXPORTS OF FUEL TO TAIWAN'S POWER STATIONS, WHILE ADMINISTRATION INACTION "MIGHT CAUSE TROUBLES WITH THE CHINA MAINLAND."

3. NORMALIZATION. AN AUGUST 9 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE QUOTES "A SENIOR ROC DIPLOMAT" (VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YANG HAI-KUN) AS ASKING "WHAT CAN THE U.S. GET FROM NORMALIZATION THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE NOW?" THE SAME SEPTEMBER 4 REFERENCE NEWS ALSO PICKS UP A TAIWAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REPORT (8/27) ON A RECENT STATEMENT BY ANTI-COMMUNIST HARD-LINER KU CHENG-KANG CHARGING THAT "THE MAOIST COMMUNISTS ARE SEEKING TO UTILIZE THE POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY OF THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO SEDUCE THE U.S. INTO REPUDIATING THE TRADITIONAL SPIRIT OF ITS FOUNDING FATHERS AND TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS."

4. DUPLICITY. THE AUGUST 29 REFERENCE NEWS PRINTS REUTERS AND AFP STORIES OUT OF TAIPEI WHICH PAINT AN UNFLATTERING PICTURE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC LEADERS WHO IN ONE BREATH INVITED ROC OFFICIALS TO VISIT THEIR COUNTRY AND IN THE NEXT BROKE OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIPEI IN FAVOR OF PEKING.

5. COMMENT: EVEN BY REFERENCE NEWS STANDARDS, THESE ARTICLES CONSTITUTE A REMARKABLY CANDID AIRING OF SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES. ASSUMING THAT THE ARTICLES ARE CAREFULLY--NOT RANDOMLY--SELECTED, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE REFERENCE NEWS EDITORS WISH TO GET ACROSS THE CONCEPT THAT TAIWAN, WHILE INCREASINGLY ISOLATED, IS NOT IMPOTENT--EITHER MILITARILY OR IN TERMS OF ITS CLOUT WITHIN U.S. POLITICAL CIRCLES.

6. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01767
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760338-1399
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760981/aaaacrvo.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "REFERENCE NEWS" HIGHLIGHTS FOREIGN PRESS STORIES ON TAIWAN
TAGS: PINR, PFOR, MNUC, CH, TW, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006